Claim 5, page 14, line 26 after "said bus implements," please delete "the" and insert --a--, and please replace "Multibus standard" with -- Multibus (IEEE 1296) open bus standard--.

Claim 7, page 15, line 2 after "commercially available messaging", please insert --system--.

Claim 7, page 15, line 2 after "and operating", please insert --system--.

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8. (Amended) In a messaging system having a host computer coupled to a network interface unit (NIU), wherein the host computer comprises a messaging platform upon which messaging applications are executed, and wherein the NIU has a first interface to the messaging platform on the host computer for communicating between said NIU and said messaging platform and a second interface to a telephone network for receiving calls from said telephone network, a method [to provide extended processing and communication abilities] comprising the steps of:

providing an embedded services processor (ESP) within the NIU that is operatively coupled to the first and second interfaces of the NIU, said ESP comprising a processor, a memory, and an operating system executing on said processor for executing software applications[that are otherwise incapable of executing within said messaging system]; and

executing software applications on said ESP that are otherwise incapable of executing within said NIU.

[connecting said ESP to external computer networks such that IP communication is realized between said ESP and said external computer networks, said external computer networks having computers operating various computing applications; and communicating data by said external computer networks to said host computer of said messaging system through said ESP, and vice versa, to execute instructions in accordance with said computing applications operating on said computers of said external computer networks and said host computer.]

9. (Amended) The method recited in claim 8, wherein [said providing step comprises placing said ESP in said NIU such that said ESP is operatively coupled to NIU to allow communication of data from said ESP to said host computer and back] said ESP further comprises a network interface, and where said method further comprises:

connecting said network interface of said ESP to a network external to said messaging system; and

communicating data from said ESP to the external network via said network interface.

a1

10. (Amended) The method recited in claim 9, wherein said providing step further comprises initializing said ESP to cooperate with components of said messaging system and to communicate with the external network[other computing devices].

11. (Amended) The method recited in claim [8] 9, wherein said communicating step comprises using an IP communication protocol [protocols and standards] to transfer data between said ESP and said external network [computer networks].

a2

16. (Amended) The method recited in claim [13] 1, wherein said ESP is capable of engaging a variety of operating states comprising any of: RESET, IDLE, INITIALIZING, UN_PENDING, RUNNING, and SHUTDOWN.

Please add new claims 18 and 19, as follows:

a3

18. The method recited in claim 8, wherein said ESP is capable of engaging a variety of operating states comprising any of: RESET, IDLE, INITIALIZING, UN_PENDING, RUNNING, and SHUTDOWN.

19. The method recited in claim 18, wherein said RESET state may be invoked by any of said other operating states.